

REMARKS

This communication responds to the Office Action mailed on February 8, 2007. Independent claims 1, 11, 16 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claims 5, 14, and 13, respectively. Claims 4-5, 14, and 22-25 are canceled, and no claims are added. As a result, claims 1-3, 6-13, 15-21, and 26-28 are now pending in this Application.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-2, 4, 7, and 16-24 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Dolman (U.S. 6,396,345; hereinafter “Dolman”). Given the amendments to pending independent claims 1 and 16, it is believed that this rejection is now moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C §102(b) is therefore respectfully requested.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 7 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Dolman, or alternatively, under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dolman. Claims 11-12 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dolman in view of Sypniewski (U.S. 6,054,951; hereinafter “Sypniewski”). Claim 25 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dolman in view of Prasad et al. (U.S. 6,515,540; hereinafter “Prasad”). Given the amendments to pending independent claims 1 and 16, it is believed that this rejection is now moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C §103(a) is therefore respectfully requested.

§101 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 22-25 were rejected under 35 USC § 101 because it is alleged by the Office that the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Given that claims 22-25 have been canceled, this rejection is now moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8-10 and 26-28 have been allowed. Claims 3, 5-6, and 13-15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's attorney at (210) 308-5677 to facilitate prosecution of this Application. If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

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